Form 70-300 (July 1969)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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DESCRIPTION							
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The former Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Residence located in front of the former County Jail and directly opposite the west side of the Vanderburgh County Court House is built of rusticated blocks of Indiana limestone. It was built to recemble a feudal castle and was obviously influenced in its design by Schloss Lichtenstein near Reutlingen in the State of Baden-Wirttemberg, West Germany.

It has a central round tower or "keep", crenelated roof lines, step gables, turrets and portcullises to give it a castle-like appearance. There is little which can deteriorate about the exterior except the wooden window frames, which need paint.

The interior has not been heated since the Sheriff moved out in the late summer of 1969, resulting in minor damage from poeling of paint from the walls. There is a roof leak in the north-east corner of the building, which has damaged the plaster in the ceiling of the bedroom directly beneath. Other-wise the interior is in good repair, although a complete re-painting and re-decorating would be indicated to make it attractive enough to serve for other purposes.

The first floor has three rooms measuring respectively 15 m 16 feet, 15 m 20 feet and 16 m 18 feet. The entrance and absirhall measure 6 m 30 feet, the portion not occupied by the stairs videning to 8 feet. There are also a small hitchenette and powder room on this floor.

The second floor likewise has three rooms of similar size to those downstairs, plus a bethroom and closet space. There is a full basement, formerly used as a kitchen for the Jail.

Thought is being given to interesting a club or organization to use the former Residence as a meeting place or club house. Other suggestions for its use have been as a children's museum or a museum of Civil War history.

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The Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Residence housed the incumbent Sheriff and his family from 1891 until 1969, when the new City-County complex was completed and the former County Court House, Annex and Jail were abandoned and rented to the Conrad Baker Foundation, a group organized for Historic Preservation in the community.

The significance of the Sheriff's Residence would be as a period piece of quaint "Bastille" type architecture such as the 19th Century conceived to be appropriate for the housing of offenders against society in grim, dungeon-like surroundings.

The Residence is connected with the Court House ocross Fourth Street by a tunnel, through which prisoners were formerly taken to trial.

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9. MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAP	HICAL	REFER	ENCES

"Architectural Heritage of Evansville" by Howard D. Wooden Published by Evansville Fuseum of Arts and Sciences

"The Evansville Story" by Dr. James E. Morlock 1956
Professorat the University of
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